GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4289
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
DRINKING WATER SCHEMES
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from the State Governments to provide drinking water in the new habitations which have come up after completion of the survey;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) whether the State Government have submitted any proposal to the Union Government for making alternative arrangements for the supply of drinking water in those habitations in which drinking water has already been provided completely but the sources of water have proved to be inadequate in the present situation;

(d) the time by which those proposals are likely to be cleared and funds provided therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide cent per cent funding to those State Governments which are not in a position to contribute their share to the water supply schemes;

(f) if so the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to extend the relaxation being given in implementation of the Accelerated Water Supply Scheme in the drought hit areas as well;

(h) if so the details therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) to (h): Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programme rests with the State Governments. State Governments are, therefore, not required to obtain the approval of Government of India for individual drinking water supply schemes. Thus, under ARWSP scheme-wise allocation of funds is not done by the Government of India. Funds are allocated to the States on the basis of following inter-state allocation criteria:

Weightage for	Percentage (%)
1. Rural population	40
2. States under DDP, DPAP, HADP & special category hill States in terms of rural areas	35
3. NC/PC villages (at 2:1 ratio between NC and PC)	15
4. Quality affected villages (40:40:15:5)+	10
Total	100

+ Keeping in view the differential impact of chemicals such as Fluoride, Arsenic, Brackishness and Iron on human health, higher weightage have been given to Fluoride

(40%) and arsenic (40%) affected habitations which have serious health problems when compared to Brackishness (15%) and Iron (5%) while arriving at quality parameters.

ARWSP funding to State Governments is done on a 50:50 matching basis.The Desert Development Project Area component of ARWSP is released on 100% grantsbasis by Central Government. There is no provision under ARWSP to release 100%grants to those States which are not in a position to contribute their share to the water supply scheme.

As per National Agenda of Governance of the Government of India all theremaining Not Covered and Partially Covered habitations in the country are to be covered with drinking water facility by April, 2004. The slipped Fully Covered and Partially Covered habitations to lower categories identified before April 2004, will be covered in the last 3 years of 10th Plan Period (2004-05 to 2006-07).

During the State Minister`s Conference on Rural Water Supply held on 19-20October, 2001 and on 5th December,2002, the question whether a fresh survey should be carried out to assess the present status of coverage of habitations was discussed . States were in favour of a re-survey of all habitations in all their respective States and Unionterritories for making a realistic assessment of the situation.

During the review of implementation of rural water supply and sanitation programme, a few State Governments informed that they have completed the survey to assess the present status of rural habitations. While some other State Governmentsinformed that the survey would be taken up shortly. It was explained to the State Governments that the Government of India is finalising the guidelines for conducting the survey to ascertain the status of rural habitations and the same will be supplied to them. The State Governments which have completed the survey were explained that Government of India would not take into consideration these revised figures since this information would be got checked and validated through an independent evaluator to be selected shortly by Government of India.

Recently Government of India have approved the relaxations in the rural water supply norms in the following manner:-

(a) The norms may be relaxed to provide for 55 ltrs per capita per day with a source within 0.5 km in the plains and 50 metres elevation in the hills after the coverage of all Not Covered and Partially Covered rural habitations in that State isachieved, as per the existing norms of 40 litres per capita per day. This relaxation is subject to the condition that beneficiaries of the relaxed norms will share a part of the capital cost (which should not be less than 10%) and shoulder full responsibilities for subsequent Operation and Maintenance.

(b) In case of schemes in quality affected villages or in multi-village schemes where the capital cost is very high, the schemes could be executed and implemented by the Government Departments/Agencies/Board, and water is supplied to individualvillages at the periphery of each village. For drinking water distribution within the village, the beneficiaries would share a part of the capital cost (which should not be less than 10%) and shoulder full responsibilities for subsequent Operation and Maintenance of the village water distribution network, while Government Department/ Board/Agency would maintain the main water supply system uptothe village. Governments/Board/Agency may also charge water rates to thePanchayats/Village communities for bulk supply of water for drinking purpose. Such water charges and the village Operation & Maintenance cost would be fully met by the users/beneficiaries.

These relaxations are applicable to all the States irrespective of whether the Stateis facing drought or not subject to the conditions mentioned above.